BSNL, the sole customer, and no production is being carried out in HCL at present. Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) considered the proposal on future of HCL on 11.09.2006 and advised Department of Heavy Industry/HCL to commission a fresh detailed comprehensive holistic techno-economic study of HCL through IIT, Kharagpur. The study has been entrusted to IIT, Kharagpur on 7th January 2007. The study will be completed in four months. Department of Heavy Industry has provided funds to HCL to finance the study. The report of IIT, Kharagpur will be placed before BRPSE, for its advice. On receipt of recommendations of BRPSE, further necessary action will be taken.

Revival of BHPV

210. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for helping to revive M/s. Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd. (BHPV), Visakhapatnam for future growth;

(b) whether it is a fact that BHPV had been referred to BIFR under the Sick Industries Companies Act in the year 2004; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures that have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Chief Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh *vide* his letter dated 6th May, 2006 has suggested merger of BHPV with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) as a subsidiary unit.

(b) Yes, Sir. BHPV was referred to BIFR in 2004.

(c) A proposal for financial restructuring and strengthening of BHPV was considered by the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) on 26.05.2006. BRPSE advised to submit a revised proposal after taking into account the outcome of due diligence being conducted by Engineers India Limited (EIL) for consideration of the Board. Due diligence studies were conducted by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), apart from EIL. Ministry of

Petroleum & Natural Gas, have since informed that EIL and HPCL need no longer be considered for acquiring any interest in BHPV. However, BHEL, which has also conducted due-diligence study of BHPV, has shown interest in it subject to waiver of Government of India loan and interest, waiver of principal and interest by financial institutions/banks, funding of liabilities not provided for and transfer of existing land in possession of BHPV free of cost with waiver of stamp duty and registration charges.

Meetings were held with Consortium of Bankers for settlement of their dues outstanding with BHPV.

Meeting with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh was also held on 17.02.2007 to seek their assistance towards revival of BHPV. After the above issues are decided, the restructuring proposal will be placed before the Board for Reconstruction of Public Enterprises (BRPSE) for their recommendations. Based on recommendations of BRPSE, the matter will be placed before the competent Authority for a decision.

Statutory dues to employees

211. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are long pending statutory dues by CPSU's to employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of amounts released in financial year 2006-07 on this account?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) CPSEs are expected to pay the wages/salaries and statutory dues to their employees regularly out of their own resources. Government, however, provides financial assistance by way of non plan loan to certain CPSEs to supplement their efforts for payment of wages/salaries and statutory dues when they are unable to generate enough resources. As per the information available Government sanctioned Rs. 1804.21 crore during 2004-05 and 2005-06 for payment of wages, salaries and statutory dues.

(c) As per the information available, Rs. 317.70 crores have been sanctioned for payment of wages, salaries and statutory dues to sick/loss making CPSEs during the financial year 2006-07.